Transfer of new technology to farmers

890. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for effective transfer of new developed technology in agriculture by scientists in India and abroad to the farmers so as to motivate them to adopt improved crop production technology to increase their yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether field demonstrations and training of farmers are being provided in the States by Government and agriculture universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what other measures are being taken for the increase of foodgrains productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agricultural Extension is the state subject. However, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) through their Directorate of Extension facilitates transfer of technology efforts in the states. The specific programmes include training of middle and senior level functionaries at National Institute of Agricultural Management (MANAGE), Extension Education Institutes (EEIs) and Advanced Training Centres (ATCs); and Information support programmes including Exhibitions, agricultural films, print and electronic media.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in various districts of the country which are being implemented by State Agricultural Universities and other Organisations. The activities include vocational skill based training of farmers, inservice training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations on various agricultural technologies.

(c) and (d) Field demonstrations and training of farmers arc being provided through various Crop development schemes of the DAC, vcz.. Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat, Coarse, Cereals & Sugarcane Based Cropping System, Intensive Cotton Development Programme, Special Jute Development Programme and Central Sector Scheme on Seed Mini-kit Programme on Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals.

During the last five years (1991-92 to 1996-97) KVKs have organised 66,900 training courses benefiting 13.99 lakhs farmers in various aspects of crop production.

(e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) has a proposal to launch an integrated extension delivery system at district level and below involving all the stakeholders by establishing an appropriate agency with the assistance of World Bank under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) in selected districts.

Production of Mutton etc.

891. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of mutton, goat, sheep-buffalo meat, beef and veal in 1976 and in the latest year for which figures are available;

(b) how much of the above three categories of meat is consumed locally and how much exported;

(c) what is the process and procedure for ensuring that beef is not exported in the name of buffalo meat;

(d) how many such cases have been caught and punished during the last three years for violating the law; and

(e) what is the punishment for such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Meat Production during 1976 and 1996 (as per Food and